

3. The graphical user interface of Claim 1, wherein the predetermined file-container icon has an associated name "My Documents."

4. The graphical user interface of Claim 1, wherein one or more of the operating system provided file-operation dialog boxes are associated with a file open or file save operation.

5. The graphical user interface of Claim 1, wherein the computer is running a version of the Microsoft Windows operation system.

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6. (Amended) A computerized system comprising:
a predetermined file-storage container; and
an operating system which defines the predetermined file-storage container as a default file-storage container on file-operation dialog windows accessible by registered or unregistered application programs.

7. (Amended) The computerized system of Claim 6, further comprising a master file containing global information pertinent to the computer system, such that information regarding a physical storage device to which the predetermined file-storage container relates is stored therein.

8. The computerized system of Claim 7, further comprising a shell registry which stores the master file.

9. The computerized system of Claim 7, wherein the master file is accessible by a network administrator over a computer network of which the computerized system is a part such that the network administrator is able to change the information regarding the physical storage device over the network.

10. The computerized system of Claim 6, wherein the operating system comprises a version of the Microsoft Windows operating system.

11. The computerized system of Claim 6, wherein the predetermined file-storage container is named "My Documents."

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12. (Three Times Amended) A method of operating a computer system including one or more registered or unregistered applications and an operating system, the method comprising:

- determining whether one of the applications has specified a folder for storing files related to the one application;
- determining whether the one application has redirected file storage from the folder to a current folder; and
- determining whether files within the current folder are of one or more particular types;

and

setting a default folder for storing files related to the one application, wherein the operating system sets the default folder, provided that the one application has not specified a folder, that the one application has not redirected file storage to the current folder, and that no file stored within the current folder is of the one or more particular types.

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13. (Four Times Amended) A computer comprising:

- a processor;
- a memory; and
- an operating system executed by the processor from the memory to provide a predetermined file-storage folder as a default folder on file operation dialog boxes accessible by a plurality of registered or unregistered application programs, wherein the file operation dialog boxes are defined independently of the application programs.

14. (Four Times Amended) A computer-readable medium having an operating system stored thereon for execution on a computer to provide a predetermined file-storage folder as a default folder on file operation dialog boxes accessible by one or more registered or

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~~F~~ unregistered application programs, wherein the file operation dialog boxes are defined independently of the one or more computer application programs.

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~~F~~ 15. (Three Times Amended) An operating system comprising one or more file-management modules defined to provide a default file-storage folder to one or more registered or unregistered computer application programs, wherein the one or more file-management modules are defined independently of the one or more computer application programs.

19. An operating system comprising a graphical user interface which includes a most-recently-used file menu defined to display links to one or more most-recently-used files and to one or more document folders.

20. The operating system of Claim 19 wherein the most-recently-used file menu is defined to display a folder icon which depicts an at least partially opened folder containing a document.

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~~F~~ 21. (Amended) An operating system comprising a graphical user interface which includes: a desktop that provides access to a predetermined file-storage container and to one or more registered or unregistered application programs; and one or more file-operations windows accessible by registered or unregistered application programs, wherein each file-operations window includes a link to the desktop.

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~~F~~ 25. (Twice Amended) A computer system for executing one or more registered or unregistered applications and an operating system, the system comprising:

means for determining whether one of the applications has specified a folder for storing files related to the one application;

means for determining whether the one application has redirected file storage from the folder to a current folder;

means for determining whether files within the current folder are of one or more particular types; and

operating system means for automatically setting a default folder for storing files related to the one application, provided that the one application has not specified a folder for storing files, that the application has not redirected file storage to the current folder, and that no file stored within the current folder is of the one or more particular types.

27. (Twice Amended) A method comprising:

the operating system of a computer system providing a default document folder for use by two or more registered or unregistered application programs before initiating installation of the application programs on the computer system; and

displaying an icon associated with the default document folder during a file operation relating to one or more of the application programs.

28. (New) A computer implemented method for providing access to most-recently-used files and to a document folder, comprising:

providing a menu;

displaying links to one or more recently used files on said menu; and

displaying a link to a document folder on said menu.